

**Remarks of the Public Affair Officer Angela Aggeler
on the Occasion of
Daniel Pearl World Music Days**

Concert of “The Reporters”

October 25, 2011|7:30 p.m.

Welcome and thank you all for coming for tonight’s very special concert of “The Reporters.” Throughout the month of October, in 77 countries around the world, there will over 2,000 concerts to mark Daniel Pearl World Music Days. Hundreds of thousands of people will gather to celebrate the unifying power of music and to spread this year’s theme of “Harmony for Humanity.” I am so pleased that all of us here this evening can be a part of this global celebration.

I want to especially thank Mile, Zarko, Borjan, Petrit and Stojan for creating this group “The Reporters.” A year ago they gave their first performance in honor of World Music Days. Tonight will be their third performance and they just keep getting better and cooler with each one. I hope they have many more performances to come in the future.

Music is a language we all understand, regardless of our nationality, culture or ethnic background. Music can heal and inspire. Daniel Pearl, a journalist for The Wall Street Journal and gifted musician, understood this. As he traveled around the world, Danny joined musical groups in every community in which he worked. Then in 2002, as he pursued a story in Karachi, Pakistan, Daniel was kidnapped and murdered by extremists.

In the face of this horrible tragedy, Danny’s family and friends created the Daniel Pearl Foundation and World Music Days, using the power of music to reaffirm the urgent need for tolerance and mutual understanding. And since 2002, Daniel Pearl Music Days have grown to more than 6,700 performances in 111 countries.

Last March, President Obama signed the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act. “The loss of Daniel Pearl was one of those moments that captured the world's imagination because it reminded us of how valuable a free press is,” the president said, “and it reminded us that there are those who would go to any length in order to silence journalists around the world.”

I hope this evening serves as a reminder to us all, then, that freedom – of the press, of expression, in so many aspects of our lives – can require courage. It requires a decision on the part of each journalist that they will pursue truth and embrace integrity. Danny Pearl made that decision. And he also knew that we could all use more music in our lives to raise our spirits and inspire our souls.

Thank you again to these five journalists for embracing Daniel's legacy, and for raising our spirits this evening.